

## **HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE REFORM**

**March 21, 2010, Washington, DC**-Rep. Herseth Sandlin issued the following statement on the health care reform legislation expected to be considered by the House this evening:

"I strongly believe health care reform must contain rising costs, increase quality and value, and improve access. But the wrong kind of reform will leave our nation worse off. That's why I'm so disappointed that the partisanship surrounding this debate has produced a bill that contains a number of good provisions, but is too deeply flawed to gain my support.

"Unfortunately, this bill is too expensive. It does not do enough now or in the future to contain costs or to lower insurance rates. And it is marred by special deals. Not only have we missed a golden opportunity to make real reforms to our health care system, I fear that the partisan atmosphere left in the wake of this debate will prevent progress on the other critically important business of the nation—none more important than the growing fiscal problems that threaten to overwhelm our children's future.

"The bill does include a number of good provisions that I support, including eliminating insurance companies' ability to exclude people with preexisting conditions or to cancel coverage when someone gets sick; allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26; and creating transparent health insurance exchanges for individuals and small businesses, where private insurers compete for their business.

"I listened closely to thousands of South Dakotans throughout this process, and it is clear to me that the vast majority of my constituents do not support this health care bill but do agree that some reforms must be made. I will continue to work to achieve responsible, sustainable health care reform for all South Dakotans."

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